

Remarks

The Examiner's attention is directed to the accompanying declaration signed by the inventor of the present application under patent office rule 1.131 indicating facts supporting a reduction to practice of the invention prior to July 31, 2202, the effective date of United States patent number 6,733,202 to Couture. This removes this patent as a reference in the present prosecution.

The declaration under patent office rule 1.131 is proper because the Couture patent does not claim the same invention claimed by the present application. For example, the Couture patent does not claim a rotatable handle as recited in claim 1, a biasing spring as recited in claim 4, a keeper channel as recited in claim 5, or a mounting tab as recited in new claim 22.

Claims 1-21 were rejected as anticipated by the Couture patent. That patent has been removed from the present prosecution by virtue of the accompanying declaration. Therefore claims 1-21 are in condition for allowance.

By the present amendment, new claims 22-24 are added that recite a mounting member that includes a hole that is engaged by the latching pin when the latching pin is in the latch position. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in Figures 2-4.

All claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance and a notice of allowance is solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 in connection with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 23-0630.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Nock Hinton
Registration No. 47,653

Date:

WATTS HOFFMANN CO., L.P.A.
P.O. Box 99839
Cleveland, Ohio 44199-0839

Phone: (216) 241-6700
Facsimile: (216) 241-8151

Encls

Rule 131 declaration with two attachments